Homework 7 Introduction to Big Data Systems

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1 What I have learned

I find the article "Worse is Better" by Richard P. Gabriel interesting as, while somewhat dated, it gives an interesting view into the compromises and decisions made in the early days of programming and computer science.

The article explores two contrasting design philosophies in software development: the MIT approach, which focuses on achieving a complete and ideal "right" design, and the "worse-is-better" philosophy, also called the New Jersey approach, which values simplicity and practicality. Gabriel argues that simpler, less complete designs (termed "worse") are often more successful in real-world applications, as they foster adaptability and ease of use. This approach prioritizes implementation simplicity over full correctness or completeness, leading to systems that are easier to port and modify. He illustrates this with Unix and C, where simplicity and minimal resource requirements enable these systems to thrive across various environments. The title, **The Rise of Worse is Better**, reflects how "worse" design choices—those sacrificing some ideal goals—often yield "better" real-world success through increased portability, adaptability, and longevity. In this context, "worse" signifies compromises in design ideals, while "better" represents the widespread adoption and durability achieved by these practical systems.